



National Infrastructure Protection Center NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 07 February 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Palm Beach Post reports residents fighting a proposal to build an underground, high-pressure natural gas pipeline have asked area legislators to investigate the safety of miles of aging pipes already in the ground. (See item [5](#))
- Reuters reports the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced on Wednesday that nearly 185,000 pounds of honey imports were seized in Texas because of contamination with traces of chloramphenicol, a human antibiotic banned from U.S. food products. (See item [16](#))
- Microsoft has pulled the security patch for Microsoft Security Bulletin MS02-071: Flaw in Windows WM_TIMER Message Handling Could Enable Privilege Elevation since the patch, which was first issued on December 11, actually introduces an error that may cause systems to fail. (See item [23](#))
- The New York Times reports British anti-terrorism police today detained seven people in coordinated early morning raids in four cities in England and Scotland in an operation linked to recent arrests in Britain of North Africans charged with plotting attacks with the deadly toxin ricin (See item [25](#))
- Note from the Editor: As of 3 February, the NIPC Daily Open Source Report is being distributed through a new list service. While significant effort has been done to ensure smooth transition, problems are bound to occur. Please notify nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov with any comments, concerns, questions, or problems.
- Note from the Editor: Both the PDF and Word versions of the daily are posted to the NIPC Web Site at <http://www.nipc.gov/dailyreports/dailyindex.htm>

NIPC Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *February 05, The Boston Globe* — Massachusetts Attorney General discourages start of wholesale electric system. Massachusetts Attorney General Thomas F. Reilly yesterday urged the overseers of New England's electric grid to back off from plans to launch a new wholesale market system March 1, saying Greater Boston businesses and consumers could be socked with huge, unfair rate increases. The board of directors of Independent System Operator, (ISO) the Holyoke-based organization that runs the power grid and wholesale market, is set to vote tomorrow on the new system. In one key concession, however, ISO-New England has backed away from plans to immediately use a controversial pricing system in Greater Boston and Connecticut when it launches the new wholesale market. Instead, it will launch the market regionally while continuing to seek federal approval for the specific Boston-Connecticut price plan, which is called a designated congestion area system. **The plan calls for replacing a single wholesale electric market price for all of New England with a system of eight regional prices, including three zones in Massachusetts and statewide prices for the five other states. Preliminary ISO estimates suggest wholesale power prices in Greater Boston could rise by up to 14 percent, which could over time lead to utility rate increases for businesses and consumers, although they might drop in other parts of New England.** John D. O'Brien Jr., Exelon's northeastern vice president of government affairs, said his company supports the new market plan. In reacting to possibly higher wholesale prices in Greater Boston, O'Brien said "there are transmission and distribution system improvement solutions, as well as conservation solutions" that would benefit from Boston-specific market price signals.

Source: http://pro.encycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=3624683

2. *February 05, Daily News – Los Angeles* — DWP revs up wind power – 80 turbines are proposed near Mojave . As part its flagging Green Power program, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) will spend \$162 million to turn wind into electricity in a plan unveiled Monday by Mayor James Hahn. **Eighty wind turbines, each taller than DWP's 15-story headquarters, will be installed on 22,000 acres, 12 miles north of the High Desert community of Mojave. Once the turbines go online in about 18 months, they are expected to produce enough "clean" energy to power more than 100,000 homes.** City officials hailed the Pine Tree Wind Project as the first of several long-term commitments to reducing the city's reliance on fossil fuels and, they hope, saving money. "This project is really a win-win for everybody," Hahn said at a news conference. **"It will reduce our cost of purchasing natural gas, eliminate over 200,000 tons of pollutants into the air here in Los Angeles and it really is a project that says to everybody that we believe in renewable energy.** "It works. It's efficient. It's reliable. And as long as the wind keeps blowing, the turbines will keep spinning." The city's Water and Power Commission expects to vote on the plan today. The project also is subject to the approval of the City Council.

Source: http://pro.encycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=3625381

3.

February 05, Environment & Energy Daily — DOE seeks Yucca funding increase, safeguards. The Energy Department requested \$591 million for its spent nuclear fuel storage project at Nevada's Yucca Mountain in its FY '04 budget request released Monday. The amount marks a slight increase in its total FY '03 request, but a substantial increase from the \$336 million allotted in the Senate omnibus spending bill passed late last month. The department is also seeking a funding mechanism that would ensure the Yucca project receives adequate funding to move forward with construction. Yucca funding The administration requested \$527 million for the program last year, but asked for approximately \$66 million more later in the year after Congress permitted the project to move forward. The House Appropriations Committee rejected the additional funding, but satisfied the request at about \$525 million, whereas the Senate, based on Assistant Minority Leader Harry Reid's (D-Nev.) strong opposition to the program helped keep the funding at \$336 million, approximately \$190 million below the administration's request. The Senate later approved Reid's figure in the omnibus bill. The final figure will be determined once House and Senate conferees finish the omnibus measure. **DOE said the program now will focus on "licensing, building, and operating the repository facilities and transportation system to accept, ship and dispose of waste."** Of the \$591 million, DOE says it intends to spend \$74.4 million on the license application process, according to budget documents. **DOE intends to submit its license application by December 2004.** Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said Monday that this amount is sufficient to complete the application on time. He also would not say that the current fiscal year's funding will remain at \$336 million, a level DOE and the nuclear industry have said could hurt the program.

Source: http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=3625463

4. *February 05, Omaha World – Herald* — Despite rising demand, industry officials expect natural gas supplies to remain adequate. Despite predictions of natural gas shortages, users of the fuel in the Midlands shouldn't be too concerned about long-term supplies, according to government estimates and those in the industry. **We have not found any real difficulty acquiring gas supplies,"** said Jerry Gohr, assistant general manager of operations at the Metropolitan Utilities District. **The district serves nearly 190,000 customers in the Omaha area.** A recent story in USA Today quoted experts as saying that falling U.S. production and the difficulty in getting new natural gas could create a severe supply problem or highly volatile prices for the next several years. But industry estimates, as well as those of the federal government, indicate that gas supplies should be adequate, at least through 2025. **This is not to suggest there aren't problems in the industry. Natural gas is a popular fuel, and demand for it is growing. The American Gas Association said natural gas now provides 25 percent of the nation's total energy needs; by 2020 it will supply 28 percent. Residential and commercial customers account for 37 percent of its use; industrial use amounts to 40 percent.** Electric utilities, which now use 13 percent of the natural gas supply, are leading the growth in demand. They are being forced by air quality regulations to switch from coal to cleaner burning natural gas.

Source: http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=3625386

5. *February 05, Palm Beach Post* — **Pipeline opponents push safety check for pipes in ground.** Residents fighting a Houston company's proposal to build an underground, high-pressure natural gas pipeline through northern Palm Beach County asked area legislators Wednesday to investigate the safety of miles of aging pipes already in the ground. The legislators did not

comment on the request made at the end of a lengthy meeting called to let them hear constituent concerns. North county resident Catherine Dwore said she will try to meet individually with lawmakers to press the proposal, which was prompted in part by three separate ruptures this month in underground natural gas pipes in the county. **The most serious leak, on Jan. 10, caused hundreds to be evacuated from Lake Worth High School, sent 14 people to the hospital, buckled Lake Osborne Drive and sent a 30-foot plume of flammable vapor into the air. "Ruptures and leaks in the decades-old distribution lines coupled with the proposals for new large-diameter, high-volume, high-pressure transmission lines have the public worried, and with good reason," said Dwore, who has led opposition to the El Paso Corp.'s proposal to build the 162-mile Seafarer Pipeline through Palm Beach and Martin counties.** Local utility officials say ruptures such as those this month are not common. Source: http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=3625403

6. *February 05, PR Newswire* — **Energy Secretary to discuss new hydrogen plan.** The Detroit Economic Club (DEC) announced U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham will be the speaker at its February 7, 2003 meeting. Detroit Economic Club President Beth Chappell made the announcement today. Secretary Abraham will unveil the details of President Bush's Energy plan. **Abraham will discuss the Administration's major investment in building the hydrogen economy from infrastructure investments to ongoing hydrogen research. He will discuss the government's role in collaborating with the automotive sector on research and technology efforts to build a hydrogen economy.** Abraham said, "I'm honored to return to the Economic Club to outline the Administration's new hydrogen initiative. We have made a substantial commitment to working with private industry to advance the country's use of hydrogen, especially in collaboration with the automotive industry, and I look forward to discussing this program with the members of the Economic Club in the Motor City." Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_national.htm?SMDOCID=comtex_2003_02_05_pr_0000-2898-mi-dec-abraham-plana

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Chemical Sector

7. *February 05, Associated Press* — **West Pharmaceutical Services to investigate explosion.** Consultants hired by West Pharmaceutical Services to explore the cause of a fatal explosion at its Kinston, NC plant will attempt to reconstruct what happened. The company's chief executive officer, Dan Morel, says **the company is hoping they can retrieve data that was on damaged hard drives from computers used in the rubber-making process. The company's investigation will be carried out while the United States Chemical Safety Board also attempts to pinpoint the accident's cause. The federal agency's probe could lead to changes in industry standards or government regulations. Federal investigators say a mix of dust and air fueled last week's explosion at the medical fittings factory.** Four workers died and nine burn victims remain in critical condition. Inspectors said they have not determined what kind of industrial dust fueled the explosion or what sparked it. Source: <http://www.wect.com/Global/story.asp?S=1117719>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *February 05, New York Times* — **Rumsfeld warns he will ask Congress for more billions.** Days after the administration asked Congress for the biggest military budget since the Reagan-era buildup, **Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told a Congressional panel today that the administration would soon request additional billions to fight terrorism and for any conflict with Iraq.** Rumsfeld told the House Armed Services Committee that sending forces for a possible war had already cost \$2.1 billion and that the Pentagon was spending \$1.5 billion a month to fight terrorism. Those costs are not included in the current budget nor in the \$380 billion request for 2004, and they would require a separate spending bill. The spending does not include the costs of a possible war, sums that he said were difficult to calculate. **"We will be back with a supplemental request for terrorism and for Iraq," Rumsfeld said. "And the longer it takes you to approve it, the more that we are going to have to take from existing posts. It's not just Afghanistan, but a global war on terrorism, and we absolutely have to have it."** When asked to say how much money would be requested for Iraq, Rumsfeld said: "It's impossible to predict what it would cost. What's evolving now was not known. The buildup on Iraq could not have been predicted." **The proposed budget would increase Pentagon spending 4.2 percent over fiscal year 2003.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/06/politics/06PENT.html?tnitem ail1>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *February 06, Reuters* — **SEC requires analysts to certify research.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) voted 4 to 0 on Thursday for Regulation Analyst Certification, or Reg AC. **Reg AC requires analysts to certify that opinions expressed in research reports accurately reflect their personal views.** The certification must be prominently included in the reports. **Analysts will have to certify they received no specific payment for a particular stock or bond research. If they could not certify that, then they would have to say who pays them for the research and how much, as well as state that such compensation may influence their research.** Reg AC was first proposed over six months ago by the SEC, which since then has agreed to a massive settlement with major brokerages over allegedly misleading stock research. SEC Commissioner Harvey Goldschmid said Reg AC, while helpful, would provide "a patch of only marginal value." The SEC should move toward comprehensive national regulation of analysts, Goldschmid said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A36311-2003Feb 6.html>

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Transportation Sector

10. *February 07, Associated Press* — **Baggage screening needs work.** An airport official told lawmakers Wednesday the Bush budget proposal doesn't contain any money for renovations needed to meet the government's new security requirements for terminals. **The Transportation Department's inspector general, Kenneth Mead, agreed with the airports that it could cost**

up to \$5 billion to finish the work that must be done in the next few years. "You are going to need lots of capital dollars when you start going into the basements of the airport terminals and taking apart the baggage systems," Mead told the Senate Commerce Committee's aviation panel. **Charles Barclay, president of the American Association of Airport Executives, said the 2004 Bush proposal doesn't include any money to renovate airports to improve security.** In its haste to meet a year-end deadline for screening all checked baggage for explosives at airports, the Transportation Security Administration ordered some makeshift arrangements that must be changed, airport managers say. SUV-sized bomb-detection machines that now clog some terminal lobbies must be installed permanently in the baggage-handling systems, airport representatives say. **TSA chief James Loy told the lawmakers there is \$350 million left over to pay for terminal modifications -- less than 10 percent of what the airports say they need.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31252-2003Feb 5.html>

11. *February 05, U.S. Department of Transportation* — **U.S. Transportation Secretary Mineta names Whitmer Deputy Chief of Staff. U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced on Wednesday that Martin T. Whitmer Jr. is the new Deputy Chief of Staff of the Department of Transportation, replacing Vincent T. Taylor, who last month became the Assistant Secretary for Administration at the Department of Transportation.** In addition to his role as Deputy Chief of Staff, Whitmer will also serve as the Secretary's point person on the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) and the energy bill. Whitmer joined the U.S. Department of Transportation in March 2001 as an assistant to the Secretary for policy. In that capacity, he advised the Secretary on highway, transit, energy, motor carrier and safety issues.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot01303.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

12. *February 06, Los Angeles Times* — **Port security upgrades welcomed, but industry asks who will pay. Leaders of the maritime industry told federal officials gathered in San Pedro on Wednesday that they applaud plans to protect the nation's 361 ports from terrorism, but they questioned who will pay for the security efforts.** Industry representatives called on the federal government to help ship owners, port terminals and other businesses raise an estimated \$6 billion needed to finance the new security measures during the next decade. More than 400 people attended a public hearing sponsored by the Coast Guard in San Pedro. **Dozens addressed the panel of high-level security officials, some warning of security risks and others cautioning how stepped-up security measures could create problems for small ferry operators, ship companies, and others in the industry.** The hearing, the fifth of seven nationwide, signals a new emphasis in security efforts since Sept. 11, as the focus expands from potential threats at airports to those in ports and aboard cargo and passenger vessels. **The federal Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, passed last fall, requires ports and ships to be assessed for their vulnerability to terrorist attacks.** What it does not provide, however, is significant federal money for the increased security, which the U.S. Coast Guard estimates could cost \$1.4 billion in the first year alone. The onus falls on port operators and private businesses.

Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/local/state/la-me-security6feb06_0.6387114.story?coll=la-news-state

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Agriculture Sector

13. *February 06, Illinois Ag Connection* — Illinois DNR to conduct more CWD testing. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is undertaking additional testing of white-tailed deer in Boone, McHenry, and Winnebago counties for chronic wasting disease (CWD), where seven confirmed cases of CWD have occurred. IDNR will be taking samples at Rock Cut State Park in Winnebago County, owned by the Department; Kinnikinnick Conservation Area owned by the Boone County Conservation District; and select properties owned by private individuals. The deer removal is being conducted by teams comprised of USDA Wildlife Services staff and IDNR biologists. Properties that have been selected are located in the areas in which CWD-positive deer have been found, and contain significant blocks of deer habitat where the animals tend to concentrate during winter. **So far, about 3,500 tests for CWD have been completed on the 4,100 samples taken from hunter-harvested deer. A total of seven deer have tested positive, including six taken during the firearm deer season in November and December.** All of the positive cases have been in Boone, McHenry, and Winnebago counties. "This additional testing, concentrating on known CWD areas, will allow us to better assess the status of CWD in northern Illinois," said Paul Shelton, IDNR's Forest Wildlife Program Manager. Additional samples will help biologists determine how long CWD may have been present and the distribution and prevalence of the disease. Sampling is expected to be completed by the end of February or early March, with results several weeks later. The test results will help the Department further refine its strategy for dealing with the disease.

Source: <http://www.illinoisagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=100yr=2003>

14. *February 06, Farm and Dairy* — USDA is storing Holstein germplasm as 'insurance'. The USDA has acquired sufficient semen and embryos to reintroduce Holstein dairy cattle in the United States. This genetic "insurance," available to protect the country's primary dairy cattle breed, is one example of how the USDA's Agricultural Research Service is preserving valuable genetic material for plants and animals. The germplasm can also be used for genetic marker experiments and to minimize potential genetic problems. The germplasm came from ABS Global, Select Sires, Accelerated Genetics, the University of Minnesota, Virginia Tech University, and Iowa State University.

Source: <http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=6947378AG=461fi=6>

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Food Sector

15. *February 06, USA Today* — FDA seeks altered-gene piglets sold as food. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Wednesday that it is trying to track down as many as 386 piglets that might have been genetically engineered and wrongfully sold into the

U.S. food supply. The focus of the FDA investigation are pigs raised by researchers at the University of Illinois in Urbana–Champaign. **They engineered the animals with two genes: One is a cow gene that increases milk production in the sow. The other, a synthetic gene, makes the milk easier for piglets to digest. The goal was to raise bigger pigs faster.** There has been no evidence that either genetically altered plants or animals trigger human illness, but critics warn that potential side effects remain unknown. **University officials say their tests showed the piglets were not born with the altered genes, but FDA rules require even the offspring of genetically engineered animals to be destroyed so they don't get into the food supply.** "This is a small incident, but it's incidents like this that could destroy consumer confidence and export confidence," said Stephanie Childs of the Grocery Manufacturers of America. **The University of Illinois said it tested the DNA of every piglet eight times to make sure that the animal hadn't inherited the genetic engineering of its mother. Those piglets that did were put back into the study. Those that didn't were sold to the pig broker.** "Any pig that has tested negative for the genes since 1999 has been sent off to market," said Charles Zukoski, vice chancellor for research. But FDA deputy commissioner Lester Crawford said that under the terms of the university's agreement with the FDA, the researchers were forbidden to remove the piglets without FDA approval.

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/usatoday/20030206/4842819s.htm>

16. *February 05, Reuters* — **U.S. seizes honey tainted with antibiotic. Nearly 185,000 pounds of honey imports were seized in Texas because of contamination with a human antibiotic banned from U.S. food products, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said on Wednesday.** The containers of honey seized from Hoyts Honey Farm Inc. in Baytown, Texas contained traces of chloramphenicol, an antibiotic drug used by physicians as a last resort to treat life-threatening infections. **The drug is not widely used because it can cause a disease known as aplastic anemia, in which the body's bone marrow stops making enough healthy blood cells. Chloramphenicol is prohibited in all U.S. food and animal feed products by the FDA.** The FDA did not say how the honey was contaminated with the drug. **The seizure was the third time during the past six months that U.S. officials have found similarly contaminated honey, the FDA said in a statement. Other shipments were seized last August in Louisiana and last month in Waxahachie, Texas.** U.S. Customs began investigating honey imports last year after officials were tipped off that Chinese bulk honey was being illegally transshipped through Thailand to the United States. The stop in Thailand was intended to circumvent payment of anti-dumping duties on Chinese honey imports required by the U.S. Commerce Department, according to the government.

Source: <http://asia.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=scienceNewsstoryID=2176342>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

17. *February 06, Statesman Journal* — U.S. malpractice crisis hits Oregon. Since the Oregon Supreme Court struck down a \$500,000 malpractice award cap for pain and suffering in 1999, Oregon has made the list of a dozen states facing a malpractice meltdown. As awards soared, insurers hiked their rates, put a moratorium on new policies or stopped writing policies in the state. **Doctors quit high-risk specialties like obstetrics, retired early or stayed away from the baby business and Oregon altogether. And all pregnant women, not just those with high risk cases, had to scramble even harder to find a doctor or forego prenatal care altogether.**

Source: <http://news.statesmanjournal.com/article.cfm?i=56179>

18. *February 05, Reuters* — U.S. orders resistance warnings on antibiotics. Antibiotics will need to carry warnings advising doctors to avoid unnecessary prescriptions, a major contributor to the problem of drug-resistant infections, U.S. health officials said on Wednesday. The new requirement aims to reduce inappropriate prescribing of antibiotics for common ailments such as ear infections and chronic coughs, which often are caused by viruses that do not respond to antibiotics. Antibiotics only kill bacteria, but patients often request them for treating a variety of infections. **Starting next year, antibiotic labels should include instructions for doctors to prescribe them only when an infection is proven or strongly suspected to be caused by bacteria, the Food and Drug Administration said. The labels also will encourage physicians to counsel patients about what types of infections require antibiotic treatment, as well as remind them to take all of their medication, even if they feel better in a few days.** Not completing a full course of treatment can give microbes the chance to mutate to resist antibiotics, causing infections that are harder to treat. **Overprescribing the drugs also is considered a major reason that antibiotic resistance is increasing.** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, half of the 100 million prescriptions a year written by office-based physicians in the United States are unnecessary because they are prescribed for the common cold and other viral infections.

Source: <http://reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=scienceNewsD=2177535>

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Government Sector

19. *February 05, Federal Computer Week* — Treasury names critical infrastructure chief. The Treasury Department on Feb. 4 named Michael Dawson as the head of the department's new Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection. Dawson will serve as deputy assistant secretary for critical infrastructure protection and compliance policy. Treasury is the liaison agency for the banking and finance sector when it comes to cyber and physical infrastructure protection. The office is part of the department's efforts to share information between the banking and finance sectors, and between the private and public sectors. The financial services industry is one of the most advanced areas for addressing critical infrastructure protection. Of all the Information Sharing and Analysis Centers established under the Clinton administration, the Financial Services ISAC is the most mature. **Much of the Treasury office's efforts will focus on enforcing homeland security regulations related to the Patriot Act, such as terrorist financing and money laundering, but the office also will address identity theft, according to the department.**

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0203/web-treas-02-05-03.asp>

20. *February 05, Government Executive Magazine* — **Defense background check authority may transfer to OPM . Nearly 2,000 Defense Security Service employees will transfer to the Office of Personnel Management if Congress approves legislation allowing OPM to take over the Pentagon's background investigation services.** The transfer of the Defense Department's background investigation services to OPM is part of the Bush administration's fiscal 2004 budget proposal released Monday. The 1,800 DSS employees would not be required to move job locations and would see no change in pay or benefits. **The move would put 80 percent of the government's background check business under OPM's oversight.** The two agencies have worked together in the past two years to help reduce a background investigations backlog at the Defense Department, which has more than 2.4 million personnel with security clearances. Allowing OPM to take over this process will lead to a more efficient process and will save money, officials said Wednesday. "This will provide better access for agencies who are granting these clearances, and e-Clearance will improve the process even further," OPM officials said. **Congress must approve the swap before the move becomes official, but tentative plans include a full transfer of the affected staff to OPM by October 2004.**
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0203/020503t1.htm>

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Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report.

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

21. *February 07, silicon* — **Two held in computer virus raid.** Two men from northeast England are being interviewed today by the National Hi-Tech Crime Unit (NHTCU). The move follows the execution of search warrants this morning in County Durham, United Kingdom (UK). Two addresses were searched and evidence retrieved relating to computer and drugs offences. **The operation was jointly conducted with officers from Durham Constabulary and the United States multi-agency CATCH team (Computer and Technology Crime Hi-Tech Response Team), which is based in Southern California. A simultaneous search warrant was executed at an address in the state of Illinois where additional evidence in the case was seized.** The two UK-based men have been identified as **members of an international hacking group known as "THr34t-Krew".** The NHTCU claims this group is behind a worm called the TK which has infected approximately 18,000 computers worldwide.
Source: <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/story/0,,t269-s2130039,00.html>

22. *February 06, New York Times* — **Assessing the odds of catastrophe.** A rapidly evolving set of conceptual and computing tools allow mathematicians, engineers and insurance executives to assess the risk of low-probability, high-consequence events. The field, known as **probabilistic risk assessment, helps companies and government agencies decide whether they are prepared to take the chances involved.** And now some of the techniques are being used to **analyze the chances of terrorist attack.** Developed four decades ago, the idea behind

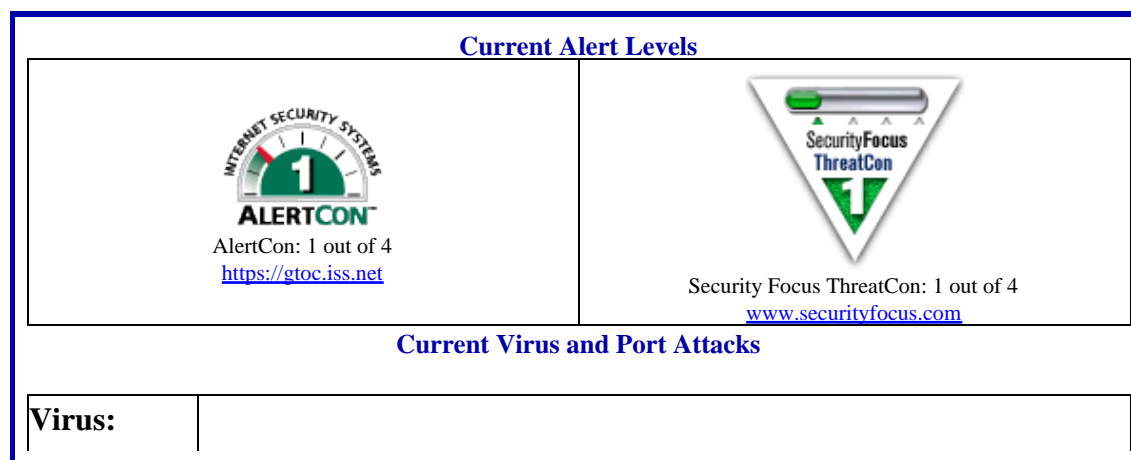
probabilistic risk assessment is that mathematics can help determine the chances of a particular outcome (a power system failure, or a hurricane that destroys thousands of homes) based on what is known or estimated about the smaller variables that lead to those outcomes. Jim Goodnight of SAS, a maker of statistical software, said that with faster processors, more advanced software and a huge availability of memory – whether on big mainframe computers or on lashed-together PC systems – "the ability to do the incredibly difficult modeling is becoming more reachable every day." Probabilistic models, of course, are only as useful as the assumptions fed into them. Moreover, they are best used when a system or piece of equipment is being designed. **The most daunting challenge, however, may be modeling minds.** In describing the challenge of modeling terrorism, Hemant H. Shah of RMS, a risk-modeling firm, said, "**Hurricanes do not make an effort to strike your weak points. In the case of terrorism you're dealing with a question of intent. You're modeling an adversary in the context of conflict.**"

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/06/technology/circuits/06risk.html>

23. *February 05, eSecurity Planet* — **Problematic Windows NT patch pulled. Microsoft has pulled the security patch for Microsoft Security Bulletin MS02-071: Flaw in Windows WM_TIMER Message Handling Could Enable Privilege Elevation.** The patch, which was first issued on December 11, actually introduces an error that may cause systems to fail. While the Slammer worm inflicted its damage on copies of Microsoft SQL Server 2000, the latest problem revolves around a security patch for Windows NT 4.0 systems. **But it comes at a time when sysadmins are being scolded for not updating systems with the necessary patches in the first place.** (The patch for Slammer has been around since July.) The security vulnerability was found in the WM_TIMER Message Handling in NT 4.0 and could enable privilege elevation. Patches for Windows 2000 and Windows XP were unaffected by the latest withdrawal, Microsoft said. In the updated advisory, Microsoft said it was investigating the cause of the problematic patch and promised to release an updated fix soon. **The company urged Windows NT 4.0 administrators to uninstall the patch** until a new fix is issued. This vulnerability has a severity rating of "Important". **The updated advisory may be found on the Microsoft website:** <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/security/bulletin/MS02-071.asp>

Source: <http://www.esecurityplanet.com/trends/article.php/1579611>

Internet Alert Dashboard



	#1 Virus in the United States: PE_FUNLOVE.4099 Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	137 (netbios–ns), 1434 (ms–sql–m), 80 (http), 1433 (ms–sql–s), 53 (domain), 21 (ftp), 139 (netbios–ssn), 445 (microsoft–ds), 135 (???), 4662 (???) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

24. *February 06, Associated Press* — **Germans detain three terror suspects.** German authorities raided Islamic centers in two cities Thursday in a search for a militant group suspected of planning to attack a U.S. target in Germany and having links to the Hamburg–based cell of Sept. 11 suicide pilots. Police held three men for questioning and searched premises at Islamic centers in the west German cities of Muenster and Minden as well as four other sites in raids that began at dawn, federal prosecutors said in a statement. Officials did not identify the suspects. **Two of the men are suspected of forming a group that planned attacks in Germany at the end of 2001 or the start of 2002, including an attack "on an American installation in the Frankfurt metropolitan area," the statement said.**
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-02-06-german-terror_x.htm

25. *February 06, New York Times* — **Seven detained in British anti–terror raids.** Anti–terrorism police detained seven people in coordinated early morning raids in four cities in England and Scotland today in an operation that officials linked to recent arrests in Britain of North Africans charged with plotting attacks with the deadly toxin ricin. Two men were arrested in London, two in Edinburgh, one man in Manchester and a man and a woman in Glasgow. Seeking to reassure residents of the affected neighborhoods that they faced no immediate danger, Tom Wood, deputy chief constable of Lothian and Borders Police in Scotland said, "Although searches of the addresses are continuing, it is important to stress that there has been no discovery of dangerous substances at this time." He said he expected the searches to continue for two days.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/06/international/europe/06CND_ARRE.html?tnemail1

26. *February 06, U.S. Department of State* — **State Department issues worldwide caution public announcement.** The State Department issued a Worldwide Caution announcement today that supersedes the Worldwide Caution dated November 20, 2002. **The announcement was issued to remind U.S. citizens of the need to remain vigilant due to a heightened threat of terrorist actions that may target civilians, including the possibility of attacks by non–conventional weapons.** The Worldwide Caution expires on May 4, 2003. The Department of State reminds Americans that U.S. citizens and interests are at a heightened risk of terrorist attacks, including by groups with links to Al–Qaida. Terrorist actions may include, but are not limited to, suicide operations, assassinations or kidnappings. While conventional weapons such as explosive devices pose a more immediate threat in many areas overseas, terrorist use of non–conventional weapons, including chemical or biological agents must be considered a growing threat. These individuals and groups have proved that they do not

distinguish between official and civilian targets. **Because security and security awareness have been elevated within the United States, terrorists may target U.S. interests overseas.** Private Americans should remain vigilant with regard to their personal security and exercise caution. Attacks on places of worship and schools, and the murders of private American citizens and other westerners, demonstrate that as security is increased at official U.S. facilities, terrorists and their sympathizers will seek softer targets.

Source: <http://travel.state.gov/wwc1.html>

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